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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SP-02 INR-05 INRE-00 L-01 SNM-02 TRSE-00 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1594
INFO CIA
DOD/ISA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9186

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, SNAR
SUBJ: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S MEETINGS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

REF: (A) BKK 8749 (B) BKK 8601

1. DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND THE SUBSEQUENT LUNCH TO BE HOSTED BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB ON APR 29, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CAN BE EXPECTED TO ASK SOME RATHER POINTED QUESTIONS REGARDING FUTURE US POLICY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, BOTH BILATERAL VIS-A-VIS THAILAND AND REGIONAL WITH THE MEMBERS OF ASEAN. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH HIM HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE KEENLY INTERESTED IN HOW THE US GOVERNMENT VIEWS ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MANILA TREATY AND IN THE RUSK-THANAT COMMUNIQUE. HE IS OBVIOUSLY SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT THE COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN THOSE TWO DOCUMENTS CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN FORCE AS FAR AS THE US GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED.

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2. DEPENDING ON HOW THE CONVERSATION FLOWS, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK HIS PERCEPTION OF THAILAND'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH CAMBODIA, LAOS AND VIET NAM. IN THE MONTHS SINCE OCT 6 WHEN THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL ASSUMED POWER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT, KRIANGSAK HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE QUITE SUPPLE IN HIS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AND

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FAVORABLE TO THE IDEA OF TRYING TO BUILD ON THE EMBRYONIC RE-
LATIONSHIP WHICH THE SENI GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED DURING
THE VISIT OF ITS MISSION TO HANOI IN EARLY AUG, 1976,
KRIANGSAK IS NOT A TWO-DIMENSIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST THAI
MILITARY LEADER; INDEED, HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF READY AND
WILLING TO TALK WITH THE RUSSIANS, CHINESE AND THE
VIETNAMESE WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF IF, IN
HIS VIEW, IT WILL SERVE THAILAND'S INTERESTS.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO RAISE WITH GENERAL
KRIANGSAK THE QUESTION OF THAILAND'S ANTI-NARCOTIC EFFORTS,
HIS INTERLOCUTORS ON THE US SIDE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE
CONTENTS OF THE SPEECH HE MADE ON THIS SUBJECT APR 19
BEFORE THE COMBINED FOREIGN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE HERE IN
BANGKOK (SEE REFTELS); IN THE PROBABILITY THAT HE WILL
MAKE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS THAT HE CATALOGUED IN THAT
ADDRESS IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM THE
EMBASSY'S REPORTING, KRIANGSAK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE
ELEMENT (ASIDE FROM THE KING) IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL
EQUATION IN THAILAND. HE IS ALSO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH LONG
ASSOCIATION WITH WHAT HE VIEWS TO BE THE THAI-US "SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP" GOING BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN HE COMMANDED A
THAI COMBAT UNIT IN KOREA DURING THE "POLICE ACTION".
HE HAS GREAT AFFECTION FOR THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS
MANY OF THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY,
WITH WHOM HE HAS WORKED OVER THE YEARS.
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